

# American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN™



## Rhode Island Chapter

Rhode Island Chapter of the AAP  
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On July 23, 2010, in an effort to best advise the Department of Health on vaccine brand choice, the Vaccine Advisory Board heard informative presentations from the two meningococcal vaccine companies. The physician board members and pharmaceutical representative guests were educated about Menactra (Sanofi-Pasteur Vaccines) and Menveo (Novartis Vaccines) in two fifteen minute presentations, followed by a total of fifteen minutes of questions and answers.

It is the opinion of the committee that each meningococcal vaccine has its distinct yet subtle advantages and disadvantages. The overall disease protection against invasive meningococcal disease is more than appropriate from either vaccine. However, the key to maintaining the success of Rhode Island's pediatric vaccine program is the simplicity and efficiency of vaccine effectiveness coupled with vaccine delivery.

When measured against this benchmark, the biggest shortfall of Menveo, when compared to Menactra, is twofold - the fact that FDA approval to age two is still pending and the vaccine product requires reconstitution before administration.

Therefore, at this time, it is the majority recommendation of this committee that the Department of Health continue to supply Menactra to its state vaccine program. We would, however, like the opportunity to revisit this recommendation when and if Menveo is approved by the FDA for the younger age group.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Lange, MD FAAP  
Chair, Vaccine Advisory Board

